

**Charles H. Schaaf Jr.  
4900 Southwest 31st Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312**

January 28, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

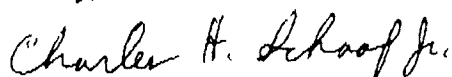
In the interest of ending this costly litigation, I would like to ask for your support of the pending settlement with Microsoft Corporation. This case has been motivated by states that want to protect their weakened software businesses, which would seem antithetical to America's purported belief in the free market system. The case should be wrapped up at the earliest opportunity.

This agreement is a very good one for the competition, as Microsoft has made several gestures to encourage more competition in the industry, even surpassing some of the government's initial complaints. They will allow computer makers to receive universal terms and conditions on licensing the Windows operating system, while working without any contractual quotas to distribute or promote their technologies. Additionally, the broader rights of these companies to offer non-Microsoft software will enable software developers plenty of opportunities to gain a bigger share of the PC market.

In light of the ongoing struggles of the U.S. technology sector, it is time to accept this deal and get these companies back to business. Any further action would only postpone a solution and cost taxpayers more government time and money. I thank you for your support.

I wonder if all the lawsuits that American businesses have to put up with will ruin our economy.

Sincerely,



Charles Schaaf